



City of Newport
REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

To: Council Chair Charles Holder & Members of the City Council
From: Colin K. Kennedy, MPA, City Manager *Colin K. Kennedy*
Date: December 10, 2024
Subject: Ordinance Amendment Chapter 2.120.010 – Fees for permits and licenses
Ordinance Amendment Chapter 10.28.080– Easton’s Beach parking lot
Staff Presentation: Erik Reis, Recreation & Beach Administrator

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Public Services, with support of the Beach Commission, recommends updating the Easton’s Beach Amenities Fee Schedule which was last modified in 2019 to enhance revenues to support operations.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The proposed revisions to existing fees and implementation of new fees charged by the City of Newport for facilities and amenities provided at Easton’s Beach are approximated to generate up to an additional \$500,000.00 annually, and are warranted and appropriate based on comprehensive review, fee studies and cost analyses of services and operating costs. The modifications are as follows:

Beach Parking: Beach Parking fees are per entry, per day, as overnight parking is not allowed at the beach parking lots. Offering a “not to exceed” is currently within the ordinance. We recommend increasing the fee limit to be comparable to Sachuest Beach, to which we receive a majority of their overflow when they fill on weekends.

Holiday Rates around 4th of July: We recommend to increase the daily fee for weekdays falling between weekends immediately preceding and following July 4. The proposed holiday rate is the highest weekend daily rate at each lot, with increased rates for motorcycles, mopeds and busses on these days.

Bus Parking: We recommend raising the fee to continue with this practice to not only increase revenue when they do want to park, but also to discourage them from parking in the public parking lots at the beaches as the buses have difficulty navigating the parking lots when the lots are near or at capacity.

Seasonal Sticker (Resident): We recommend the elimination of all beach parking fees to Newport residents whose vehicles possess a City of Newport residential parking sticker. Currently, we allow residents with a residential parking sticker to park for free before Memorial Day and after Labor Day, however, the inconsistent message has been confusing to both residents and parking enforcement personnel.

Seasonal Sticker (Non-Resident): Easton’s Beach offers a seasonal beach parking sticker for use in West Parking Lot #1 and East Parking Lot #3. We recommend an increase to the beach sticker pass fee to be more consistent with beaches in the vicinity, but just below Sachuest Beach current seasonal rates in order to retain our current clientele. These passes will be sold online through our web-based recreation software program and license plate registration will be uploaded to pay by plate back-office software which will eliminate the need for a beach sticker and associated expenses.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Currently Budgeted (Account _____) Requires additional appropriation No Fiscal Impact

The fee schedule changes are estimated to increase revenues by an approximate amount of up to \$500,000.00 annually.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Ordinance

Attachment A – FY25 Fee Revisions Proposed Fee Schedule

Attachment B – 2024 Beach Comparison

Letter of Support – Newport Beach Commission

Finance Dept. Review: 1/31/24 Date By: RJN (if applicable)

CITY OF NEWPORT

ORDINANCE

OF THE

COUNCIL

NO.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, REVISION OF 1994, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, "CITY HARBOR."

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Newport:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.28 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Newport, Revision of 1994, as amended, entitled "**Public Parking Lots,**" is hereby further amended as follows:

10.28.080, "Easton's Beach parking lot"

The Easton's Beach parking lots are for use as a parking facility. Vehicles parked in the lot are at all times parked at the owner's risk, whether or not a fee is being charged for parking, and the city will not be responsible for any loss as the result of fire, theft, accident or vandalism.

The following fees and regulations shall apply to vehicles using the Easton's Beach parking lots:

- A. Fee schedule for the period of April 1 through November 30, and on any additional day or days during the calendar year that the city administration deems that implementation of the fee schedule would be beneficial because of a special event or a high volume of traffic within the city are set forth in 2.120.010(22)
- B. Hours of Operation. The lots shall remain open from eight a.m. until nine p.m. on weekends and holidays and nine a.m. until nine p.m. on weekdays from April 1 through November 30, unless conditions are deemed unsafe by the beach manager or recreation administrator requiring reduced hours or closure of the lots.

DELETE PARAGRAPH C

- C. ~~Seasonal beach sticker decals, valid daily, from April 1 to November 30, shall be available for purchase to residents and non-residents. Vehicles with a current residential parking permit are entitled to free parking the following periods: April 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend through November 30.~~

ADD IN LIEU THEREOF

- C. Seasonal beach sticker decals, valid daily, from April 1 to November 30, shall be available for purchase to non-residents. Vehicles with a current residential parking permit are entitled to free parking.
- D. Regulations for Vehicles.
1. Entrance to the lots shall be through Memorial Boulevard designated entrances, with vehicles exiting on Memorial Boulevard only.
 2. Vehicles parking overnight will be removed by the city at the owner's expense, unless approved by the beach manager or recreation administrator beforehand.
 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle in the Easton's Beach parking lots unless required parking fees have been paid.
 4. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle in the beach parking lots unless said vehicle is wholly within a parking space so designated by pavement markings.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak, CMC
City Clerk

Strikethrough = delete
 Blue = replacement

CITY OF NEWPORT

ORDINANCE

OF THE

COUNCIL

NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE TWO OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, REVISION OF 1994, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATION."

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Newport:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2.120 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Newport, Revision of 1994, as amended, entitled, "**General Fee Schedule**," is hereby further amended, as follows:

2.120.010. Fees for permits and licenses.

22.	Newport Beach.		
	Resident bathhouses	\$250.00	season
	Age 65 and older	200.00	season
	Resident, bathhouse and private parking	350.00	per year
	Age 65 and older	300.00	per year
	Resident parking stickers	50.00 0	season
	Age 65 and older	30.00 0	season
	Nonresident bathhouses	500.00	season
	Age 65 and older	400.00	season
	Nonresident, bathhouse and private parking	700.00	per year
	Age 65 and older	600.00	per year
	Nonresident parking stickers	100.00 150	season
	Age 65 and older	60.00 100	season
	Daily parking		
	Weekdays - not to exceed	15.00 25	per day
	Weekends and holidays - not to exceed	25.00 35	per day
	Weekdays falling between weekends	25.00 35	per day

Strikethrough = delete

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	immediately preceding and following July 4 - not to exceed		
	Bus parking		
	Weekdays	40.00 50	per day
	Weekends/Holidays	80.00 100	per day
	Bathhouse guest	5.00	per day
	Additional adults per bathhouse (no more than four adults per bathhouse)	75.00	per year
	Children	20.00	per year
	Motorcycles and mopeds		
	Weekdays	5.00 25	per day
	Weekends and holidays	10.00 35	per day
	Resident pass	10.00	per year
	Nonresident pass	20.00	per year

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage, and any ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

IN COUNCIL

READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak, CMC
City Clerk

Attachment B
2025 Beach Comparison

Name	Resident Daily	Non Res Daily	Weekend/Holiday Resident	Weekend/Holiday Non-Res	Seasonal Res	Seasonal Non Res	Seasonal 65 older Res	Seasonal 65 older NR	Motorcycle Resident	Motorcycle Non Resident	Bus Weekday	Bus Weekend
<u>Newport</u>	\$15	\$15	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$30	\$60	\$15	\$25	\$40	\$80
<u>Middletown</u>	\$25	\$25	\$35	\$35	\$90	\$180	\$85	\$170	\$40	\$80		
<u>DEM</u>	\$6	\$12	\$7	\$14	\$30	\$60	\$15	\$30			\$40	\$40
<u>South Kingstown</u>	\$10	\$20	\$15	\$25	\$35	\$130	\$60	N/A			\$50	
<u>Naragansett</u>	\$10		\$15		\$50		62+ Free					
<u>Jamestown</u>	\$15				\$15							
<u>Charlestown</u>	\$25	\$25	\$40	\$40	\$75	\$150	\$35	\$70				
<u>Bristol</u>	\$10	\$20	\$15	\$30	\$20		Free					
<u>Westerly</u>	\$10	\$10	\$25	\$25	\$80	\$80	\$45	\$45				
<u>Tiverton</u>	No fee	\$10	No fee	\$20	\$10	\$150					\$35	\$35

December 20, 2024

Mayor Charles Holder and the Members of the Newport City Council

Newport City Hall
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

Mayor Holder and Esteemed Councilors,

On December 18, 2024, Erik Reis, Recreation Administrator and Dave Viera, Recreation Program Supervisor, presented the Newport Beach Commission (NBC) with proposed usage fee changes at Easton's Beach. The NBC voted in support of the proposed increases for parking fees and in support of the recommendation of eliminating resident beach parking fees altogether. The increase in parking fees is warranted, as an informal analysis of Beach Revenue versus Expenses conducted by the NBC indicated that the Expense of operating the Beach exceeded revenue by approximately 14%. This number is not currently possible to completely verify, given that Beach Expenses are spread across at least 3 different City Budgets for Labor, Materials and Vendor Contracts.

Given that inflation has been substantial since 2020 and fees were last changed in 2019, the NBC advises that the new fee structure is necessary to keep Easton's Beach from slipping into an unusable state. It will NOT be enough to restore features and amenities which have already decayed and were demolished at DPW expense. (Incidentally, the costs of the Carousel and Snack Bar Buildings are NOT reflected in the Revenue vs. Expense analysis.)

The Newport Beach commission therefore supports the new fee structure in accordance with its Charter responsibilities, which are:

- A. **Reviewing all improvements proposed to council, including capital improvement, budget and parking and user fee recommendations, and advising council on its findings;**
- B. Submitting plans, reviews and recommendations to council on all private and public development;
- C. Holding public hearings and requesting interested residents of the city to appear at these hearings to offer suggestions or provide information concerning beach operations, maintenance and improvements;
- D. Establishing its own procedures and organization to most effectively accomplish its task of advising council on beach matters and in gaining public support and patronage of the beach;
- E. Being responsible and accountable to council for its recommendations; and
- F. **Making recommendations for King Park and People's Beach.**

Respectfully,

Mark Fitzgerald

Chairman, Newport Beach Commission